(c) Does not arise.

Steps to discourage wastage of Petroleum products

523. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of wasteful practices are prevalent among users of petroleum and its allied products and which the Petroleum Conservation Research Association had also identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to discourage such practices and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Improvement in reducing wasteful practices of petroleum products is a continuous process by way of innovation and technologies' upgradation. Areas for improvement so far identified are replacement of furnaces with higher efficiency, recovery of more heat from hot streams in the refineries, use of better pumps to reduce leakage of petroleum products, improvement in gas flare management, use of efficient machineries, design and marketing of efficient LPG and kerosene stoves, etc.

(c) Government have taken number of steps like—

(i) mass awareness campaigns, training programmes, seminars, energy use studies, energy audits, fuel oil use studies demonstration of projects in various sectors, etc.

(ii) development and promotion of the use of fuel efficient appliances like kerosene and LPG stoves in the household sector;

(iii) standardisation of fuel efficient irrigation pumpsets and rectification of existing pumpsets in the agricultural sector;

(iv) promotion of fuel efficient practices and equipments, etc. in the industrial sector;

(v) adoption of practices conducive to increased fuel efficiency and training programmes in the transport sector; and

(vi) use of natural gas in the oil field operators in order to conserve liquified hydrocarbon resources.

The above steps have resulted in encouraging results.

Dwindling crude output in Cambay and Assam

524. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dwindling crude output in Cambay and Assam areas are thwarting the ambitious crude oil production target in the 8th Five Year Plan period as reported in the 'Telegraph' of February 1, 1995; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The decline in indigenous production of crude oil upto the year 1992-93 was due to wider factors such as ageing of oil fields; implementation of rectificatory measures in the Bombay High, environmental constraints in the North-East etc.

(b) The remedial measures initiated to boost the indigenous production of crude oil include:—

(i) Extension of some enhanced oil recovery schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.

(ii) Implementation of certain specialised technologies such as extended reach drilling, Horizontal and Drain Hole Drilling.

(iii) Obtaining services of international experts wherever considered necessary.

(iv) Implementation of new projects|schemes.

(v) Drilling of development and infill wells and putting them on production in quickest possible period.

(vi) Maintenance of reservoir health by appropriate pressure maintenance methods, work-over jobs and optimisation of production.

(vii) Offering sme medium-small sized fields to JVC|private parties by Government.

Loan from Asian Development Bank to GAIL

525. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take A.D.B. loan for Gas Authority of India Ltd. for pipeline network to distribute natural Gas from Oman;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the loan is expected to be received; and

(c) what is the total expenditure likely to be incurred by Government on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The domestic pipeline network is estimated to cost Rs. 7400 crores. Funds will be tied up only after the detailed project reports are drawn up.

Recruitment, promotion and transfer policy of IRCON

526. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways Construction Co. Ltd. (IRCON) was set up in the year 1976 but till today it has no proper recruitment, transfer and promotion policies of its own;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to look into this; if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Discontinuation of New Delhi Chandigarh Shatabdi Express

527 SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to discontinue the Shatabdi Express from New Delhi-Chandigarh-New Delhi from January 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.